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"Will Rogers Follies" Comes to Cohan Center Oct. 12

SAN LUIS OBISPO, CALIFORNIA -- The immortal Will Rogers -- cowboy, newspaperman, radio pundit, movie star, family man, and philosopher -- was known throughout the world as a Renaissance man.

Cal Poly Arts presents "the musical that audiences have really been waiting for" (New York Times) on Wednesday, October 12, 2005 at 8 p.m. in the Christopher Cohan Center.

Claiming to have never met a man he didn't like, Rogers was America's first international multimedia sensation, whose wit and homespun wisdom went straight to the nation's heart.

The nationwide tour of Broadway's "The Will Rogers Follies - A Life In Revue" presents the life and career of Will Rogers as the great showman Florenz Ziegfeld would have -- with all the girls, the glitter and the glamour of pure entertainment.

Winner of six 1991 Tony Awards, including Best Musical, and the 1992 Grammy Award for Best Musical Show Album, this extravaganza is a highly visual account of the life of the famed folk hero.

The character of Will Rogers narrates his life story through a series of spectacular Ziegfeld Follies production numbers which come to life with Ziegfeld Girls, Ziegfeld's Favorite, wranglers, and a roper.

"The Will Rogers Follies" has a book by Peter Stone, with a Tony award-winning score by composer Cy Coleman and lyricists Betty Comden and Adolph Green. The director/ choreographer is Steve Minning, a protégé to Tony Award-winner Tommy Tune from the original Broadway production. The set design is by Tony Walton from the original touring design, as are Willa Kim's Tony-winning costumes.

At the height of his success, Rogers was the top box office attraction in the world. He made 70 films, was the highest paid radio star of his time, and his daily newspaper column was carried by more than 350 newspapers.

One of the biggest stars of "The Ziegfeld Follies," Rogers was the personal friend of five presidents and stayed at the White House whenever he was in Washington.

Don't miss the musical story of a man who opined:

- "Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment."
- "Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier 'n puttin' it back in."
- "Never miss a good chance to shut up."
- "Everybody is ignorant, only on different subjects."
- "Even if you're on the right track, you'll get run over if you just sit there."

A pre-concert lecture will be held by Cal Poly Music professor Alyson McLamore, beginning at 7 p.m. in the Philips Recital hall.

Tickets for the performance range from \$52 - \$64, with student discounts available, and may be purchased at the Performing Arts Ticket Office, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. To order by phone, call (805) 756-2787; to order by fax: (805) 756-6088. Order on-line at www.pacslo.org.

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